# Richard Nixon Does a Good Deed – THE SCREEN PLAY

Setting: Nixon, campaigning for the upcoming election, is visiting a hospital to show the community his caring, softer side. Nixon visits a very sickly child (Claudia) who ends up being a very intelligent, spritely and inquisitive soul, asking him about his campaign, platform, and choices.

Richard Nixon (walking in and patting Claudia on knee): Hello! I am Richard Nixon, I am the nominee for the republican party and hope to be the president of this great country.

Claudia (in a scratchy voice which she maintains for the duration of Nixon’s visit): I know who you are…

Richard Nixon: And who might you be?

Claudia: Claudia Caffery

Richard Nixon: and how are you feeling today?

Claudia (ignoring Nixon’s question): Actually, I have a question for you.

Richard Nixon (laughing): Go on

Claudia: I have a brother in Vietnam…what are your strategies and how are you going to deal with the war?

Nixon (hand on chin): With my presidency comes a new leadership, and a new age. The new leadership I bring forth “will end the war and win the peace in the Pacific.” I ardently believe it is time to bring our troops home. After the failed attempts of my many predecessors America grows tired and wearisome of this cumbersome war. It is time to relinquish the burden. Peace will not be far away when I am elected, and all of our brave troops in North and South Vietnam will be brought home. That is my promise to America and its people.

Claudia: …that’s good to hear… so you want to be a peacemaker?

Richard Nixon (nodding his head and loudly whispering): “the greatest honor…is the title of peacemaker”

Claudia: So how do you planning on making peace within America? We appear unified, but segregations runs deeply in America.

Richard Nixon: That is true. America is “torn by division, wanting unity.” As a people, we must realize that “if we want to make beautiful music, you must play the black and white notes together.” Well, that’s what Louis Armstrong would say…I’d have to agree. My presidency will not only bring the dawn of peace in foreign affairs, but in internal affairs as well. This beautiful country will live up to the splendors she boasts.

Claudia: then I assume…if you love peace that you hate communism…?

Richard Nixon: Many people believe the dangers of communism are not upon us any longer. This is false, “communism isn’t sleeping; it is, as always, plotting, scheming, working, fighting.” During my presidency I vow to protect this country with my last fiber. To do this I believe we must negotiate and make peace with countries that were once our enemies. I will seek to improve relations with communist countries, such as the Soviet Union and China, for we can all live in this world with harmony.

Claudia (chuckling): That reminds me of your infamous ‘kitchen debate’ with Nikita Khrushchev.

Richard Nixon (smiling with self-satisfaction and chortling): well, you know what they say…if you cant take the heat, stay out of the kitchen!!

Claudia (rolling eyes): yeah, yeah. So…to take a gander away from all of these foreign affairs and peace, what are your plans for America’s infrastructure?

Richard Nixon: “In pursuing our goals of full employment, better housing, excellence in education; in rebuilding our cities and improving rural areas; in protecting our environment and enhancing the quality of life—in all these and more, we will and must press urgently forward.”

Claudia: well said, well said. So…the government will hear the once subdued voices of America?

Richard Nixon (nodding fervently): “Government will listen. We will strive to listen in new ways—to the voices of quiet anguish, the voices that speak without words, the voices of the heart—to the injured voices, the anxious voices, the voices that have despaired of being heard.”For all of those that believe they have not been heard by their country, to the Silent Majority of America. I vow to you upon the succession of my election, you will be heard!

Claudia: So what is this Silent Majority?

Richard Nixon: The middle class is what I call the silent majority. They are the everyday Americans, embodying every aspect of America. They work hard, raise families, and pay the bills. The Silent Majority is a huge component of society, they are the foundation of America. It is time to service not just the lower and upper class, but the middle class as well. It is time to hear the voices of those that were once silence, the Silent Majority.

Claudia (coughing and weezing): I think its time for you to go now…

Richard Nixon (looking pensively at the sickly child): I will remember you when I am president

Claudia (smiling): Thank you Mr. President Elect

Richard Nixon: No, Claudia, thank you.

Bibliography:

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